

STATE OF GEORGIA  
EFFINGHAM COUNTY

AMENDMENT TO PART II, CHAPTER 10 – ANIMALS, ARTICLE III – SECTIONS 10-1, 10-4, 10-71, 10-72, and 10-114 OF THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PART II, CHAPTER 10 – ANIMALS, SECTIONS 10-1, 10-4, 10-71, 10-72, and 10-114 OF THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES AND TO REPEAL ALL OTHER ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Effingham County Board of Commissioners in regular meeting assembled and pursuant to lawful authority thereof:

**The following shall be revised and inserted into Part II, Chapter 10 – Animals, Article I, Section 10-1 – Definitions:**

*Animal control officer/department* means any person or agency designated by the county as a law enforcement officer or agency for the specific purpose of enforcement of this chapter.

*Animal shelter* means any facility operated by the county or its authorized agents for the purpose of impounding or caring for animals held under the authority of this chapter.

*Assistance Dog* means a dog that has been trained by a licensed or certified person, organization, or agency to perform physical tasks for a physically challenged person. Assistance dogs include guide or leader dogs that guide individuals who are legally blind; hearing dogs that alert individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to specific sounds; and service dogs for individuals with disabilities other than blindness or deafness, which are trained to perform a variety of physical tasks, including, but not limited to, pulling a wheelchair, lending balance support, picking up dropped objects, or providing assistance in a medical crisis.

*Dog Park* means a fenced area at a county recreational area or facility, where dogs can run off leash in the presence of their owners or handlers.

**The following shall be revised in Part II, Chapter 10 – Animals, Article I, Section 10-4 – Penalties:**

Whenever in this chapter, including any conditions or safeguards established in connection with the grant of any variance or special exception by the county, any act is prohibited or is made or declared to be unlawful, or whenever in such chapter the doing of any act is required or the failure to do any act is declared to be unlawful, where no specific penalty is provided therefor, the violator of such provision of this chapter shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished as

provided in section 1-19. Nothing contained in this section shall prevent the county from taking such other lawful action as is necessary to prevent or remedy any violation of this chapter.

**The following shall be revised in Part II, Chapter 10 – Animals, Article III, Section 10-71 - Dogs, cats, or livestock running at large prohibited.**

- (a) It shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper of any cat or dog, other than a hunting dog during hunting season to permit them to run at large in the county, or to stray from the premises of the owner or keeper, or go upon the premises of any other person.
  - (1) Hunting dogs will be allowed to run wooded areas, where permitted by the owner of the property, during deer hunting season as established by federal and/or state laws and regulations.
  - (2) All hunting dogs shall bear tags containing the owner's name, address, and phone number.
  - (3) All hunting dogs shall be vaccinated in accordance with state rabies shot regulations.
  - (4) All hunting dogs used in hunting game shall be properly supervised.
  - (5) If any properly tagged hunting dog is taken into custody by the animal control unit, the dog shall be boarded for a minimum of five days by the animal control unit at the boarding cost provided in this article. No penalties shall be charged.
  - (6) If an owner does not repossess his dog within five days of the dog's having been taken into the custody of the animal control unit, the dog shall be treated as abandoned.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for the owner of any animal other than a dog or cat, including but not limited to cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, and horses, to allow such animal to feed or to be loose on any part of the right-of-way of any public road of the county.

**The following shall be revised and replaced in Part II, Chapter 10 – Animals, Article III, Section 10-72 - Pet animals prohibited in county-recreational areas.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to bring any pet animal, dog, or cat of any age, whether or not such animal is on a leash, into any designated county recreational area or park marked with signs (No pets inside Park) Examples: Playgrounds, Ballfields. There shall be excepted from this provision.

- (a) All police dogs and assistance dogs.
- (b) Dogs, leashed, shall be allowed at boat ramps and along marked trails.
- (c) Dogs, whether leashed or unleashed, shall be allowed only within the fenced area at any county recreational area or facility that is designated as a dog park. Animals running at large in county recreational areas or facilities, and unleashed dogs within the dog park in violation of the rules and regulations contained in Section 10-72(c)(1) below, are prohibited.
  - (1) **Park Rules** - Use of the park is subject to the following rules and regulations:

1. Hours are 8:00 a.m. until dusk.
2. Use of the dog park is at your own risk.
3. Only dogs with current rabies vaccinations and all other vaccinations required by law shall be allowed to use the dog park.
4. Children under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.
5. Food, alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, and glass containers are prohibited.
6. Unattended dogs are prohibited; all dogs must be supervised by persons of at least 16 years of age.
7. Dogs under 4 months of age are prohibited.
8. Female dogs in heat, and sick dogs, are prohibited.
9. Leashes, pinch collars, or choke chains must be removed once dogs have entered the dog park.
10. No more than three (3) dogs per person are permitted at any time.
11. Unleashed dogs are restricted to the area designated for their weight class.
12. Owners are required to clean up after their dog(s); deposit all litter in trash receptacles provided.
13. The dog park gate(s) must remain closed at all times.
14. All dogs must be leashed when preparing to enter and exit the dog park.
15. Agility equipment is for dog use only; children are not permitted to climb or play on the equipment.
16. Bicycles, inline skates, roller skates, skateboards, strollers and/or motorized carts and vehicles are prohibited.
17. Dogs must be within sight and under voice control of their handler at all times; aggressive behavior is prohibited.
18. Dog-training classes are prohibited.
19. Dog owners are responsible for filling any holes, or repairing other damage created by their pets.
20. Any dog or owner creating a disturbance shall be required to leave park property upon request of a county employee.

**The following shall be revised and replaced in Part II, Chapter 10 – Animals, Article III, Section 10-114 - Animal waste.**

The owner of every animal shall be responsible for the removal of any excrement deposited by his animal on public walks, recreation area, dog park, private/public property, or county buildings.


All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

This 16<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,  
EFFINGHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

BY:   
ROGER BURDETTE, VICE CHAIR

ATTEST:

  
STEPHANIE D. JOHNSON  
EFFINGHAM COUNTY CLERK

FIRST READING 02/02/2021

SECOND READING 02/16/2021